



## Why Invest in the Rockford, Illinois Region?

- The Rockford area is a dynamic, globally connected region, where families and businesses can grow and prosper together!
- Our strategic location provides access to over 800,000 people within a 30 minute commute and there are over 13 million people within Rockford's two-hour market radius
- The Rockford Area's central location allows easy access to major interstates I-90, I-39, I-88, I-43, I-80, I-94, I-55, I-57 & I-74, providing coast-to-coast access.
- The area is equidistant between two international airports – O'Hare International Airport (Chicago) and Mitchell Field (Milwaukee) with a drive time of approximately one hour.
- The Chicago/Rockford International Airport (RFD), a U.S. Customs Port of Entry with Foreign Trade Zone status, ranks as the 19<sup>th</sup> largest air cargo airport in the U.S, moving more cargo than BOS, SEA, PDX & PHX. It can accommodate any aircraft.
- RFD is also home to the second largest hub in the UPS system, ensuring just-in-time delivery to any point.
- The area's transportation infrastructure allows for the integration of air cargo, truck transit, and rail service for flexible and efficient movement of products and includes the new, state-of-the-art Union Pacific intermodal hub...built to facilitate the movement of foreign goods from west coast ports to the mid-west and east. Rockford has its own Container Examination Station so goods can be cleared locally.
- The region's labor force is
  - Productive and globally competitive!
  - Among the best in the country and world!
  - Plentiful, especially with engineers!
- The area is wired with redundant networks of fiber optic cable and has been recognized for its efforts to provide maximum bandwidth.
- The region is served by a constant, reliable supply of power.
- The area is "business friendly", offering Tax Increment Financing, over nine square miles of Enterprise Zone, and other state and local business incentives
- The Rockford Area's current targeted industries include:
  - Transportation equipment manufacturing and R&D – Aerospace and On - & Off-Road vehicles
  - Industrial machinery manufacturing and R&D
  - Logistics - Warehouse/Distribution - Air – Rail - Truck
  - Back Office / Call Centers
  - Metals manufacturing and R&D
  - Food processing
  - Chemicals manufacturing
  - Plastics manufacturing
  - Healthcare related services
- Because of regional attributes and proximity to major markets, all levels of the area's work force are guaranteed a high quality-of-life for themselves and their families!



|                      | <u>Population</u> | <u>Labor Force</u> | <u>Underemployed</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Rockford Market Area | 807,300           | 434,800            | 65,500               |